

to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 252) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble is as follows:

S. RES. 252

Whereas the Sioux Falls Skyforce are the 1996 Champions of the Continental Basketball Association, a professional basketball league consisting of 12 teams from around the country;

Whereas the Sioux Falls Skyforce defeated the Fort Wayne Fury, of Fort-Wayne, Indiana, 4 games to 1 in the best-of-seven championship series;

Whereas the 1996 Continental Basketball Association Championship is the first championship in the 7-year history of the Sioux Falls Skyforce;

Whereas the Sioux Falls Skyforce players exemplify the virtues of hard work, determination, and a dedication to developing their talents to the highest levels; and

Whereas the people and businesses of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the surrounding area have demonstrated outstanding loyalty and support for the Sioux Falls Skyforce throughout the 7-year history of the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Sioux Falls Skyforce and their loyal fans on winning the 1996 Continental Basketball Association Championship;

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence shown by the Sioux Falls Skyforce owners, coaches, players, and staff throughout the 1996 season; and

(3) recognizes and commends the people of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the surrounding area for their outstanding loyalty and support of the Sioux Falls Skyforce throughout the 7-year history of the team.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Con. Res. 56, introduced by Senator LAUTENBERG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator LAUTENBERG in offering this legislation to remember the 10th anniversary of the terrible nuclear accident at Chernobyl. While 10 years have passed since that tragic day, the health and economic consequence of Chernobyl continue to be borne by the Ukrainian people.

I recall quite well how the Chernobyl accident on April 26, 1986 signaled the

inhumanity of the totalitarian system of government. At first, the Soviet Government feebly attempted to deny the incident—with the effect of causing further harm to those who lived in its vicinity. Ultimately, the full scale of the disaster became known, but only after millions in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and Poland had been exposed to radioactive fallout.

That a government can be so brutal to its people is no surprise to those of us who worked for many years to confront and defeat the totalitarian system. That the Soviet Government could be so brutal to the people of Ukraine was no surprise to a people who endured the forced starvation, massacres, and genocidal policies of Joseph Stalin in the 1930's. The radioactive wasteland around Chernobyl will, unfortunately, serve as a lasting and hideous monument to refute those who would defend such a system, or whose historical memory has faded sufficiently to allow them to forget its evil.

Within the catastrophe at Chernobyl were sown the seeds of the downfall of the Soviet system. A fiercely independent people such as the Ukrainians cannot be subjected forever to such abuse. I am proud of the role that I was able to fulfill in the Congress, in full support of Presidents Reagan and Bush, as the United States prevailed, the Soviet Union collapsed, and Ukraine again became an independent state in the momentous year of 1991. I was proud to sponsor legislation which called for direct United States aid to the republics, rather than through Moscow in 1990. The goal of defeating communism and achieving independence for Ukraine was not easily achieved, it was one that required the combined efforts of many nations and many people, including the Ukraine-American community, who simply refused to accept that communism would prevail over the spirit of Ukrainians.

Democracy is prevailing in Ukraine today, but the Ukrainian people and Government continue to shoulder the burden of the Chernobyl disaster. Just as the United States joined with the Ukrainian people to defeat communism, we work in partnership to overcome the tragic consequences of Chernobyl. I was pleased to support the Republican initiative in Congress to provide Ukraine with \$225 million in assistance this year, including specific assistance to nuclear safety, the development of alternatives to nuclear power and to address the ongoing health problems due to the Chernobyl disaster. I am certain that working together we can bring peace, prosperity, and a better quality of life to the people of Ukraine. I urge my colleagues to support our resolution.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor Senate Concurrent Resolution 56, which recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the worst of its kind in

history, and supports efforts to close the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant.

In the early morning hours of April 26, 1986, reactor number 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in northern Ukraine exploded, releasing massive amounts of radioactive substances into the atmosphere. This explosion released 200 times more radioactivity than was released by the atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, profoundly affecting the health of millions of people in the surrounding contaminated areas.

A decade after, Chernobyl's legacy continues and shows no signs of abating. At a hearing earlier this week of the Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, four experts, including the Ambassadors to the United States from both Ukraine and Belarus, the countries most adversely affected by the explosion, testified eloquently about the environmental, health, social, political, and economic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Their testimonies only reinforced the fact that Chernobyl's deadly fallout continues.

Thyroid cancers, especially among children in the contaminated areas in Belarus and Ukraine have risen dramatically. The rate of leukemia, and of birth defects, appears to be increasing. And an article in today's New York Times reports that scientists claim that they have found inherited genetic damage in people exposed to the fallout. While the depressing consequences to human health and the environment are increasingly coming to light, we need to understand more about the ongoing ramifications of the disaster.

Mr. President, Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 addresses the legacy of Chernobyl, recognizing the serious health and socioeconomic consequences for millions of people in Ukraine, Belarus, and western Russia. Ukraine and Belarus, in the process of a painful transition following 60 years of communism, simply are unable to deal with the full consequences of what is, ultimately, a global problem. The resolution calls upon the President to support continued and enhanced assistance to provide medical relief, humanitarian assistance, and hospital development for the countries most afflicted by Chernobyl's aftermath. It also calls upon the President to encourage research efforts into the public health consequences of the disaster, so that the world can benefit from the findings. Importantly, the resolution supports the December 1995 Ukraine—G-7 memorandum of understanding which calls for closing the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and broadening Ukraine's regional energy sources to reduce its dependence on any individual country.

Mr. President, continued and enhanced international cooperation is essential to address the suffering of the millions affected, and to prevent future Chernobyls. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 as an expression of the American people's concern for the victims of Chernobyl.